

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 4, 1886.

Mr. M. W. Reynolds (Kicking Bird), an editorial and magazine writer, is writing for the Kansas City Times a series of sketches of Kansas men. In the Times of last Sunday morning appeared the article concerning Col. M. M. Murdock which is transferred to these columns. The editor would probably offer some comments upon his biographer's observations touching the color of his hair, weight of his brains and use of his pocket book were he at his post, but as it is, the article is given just as it appeared in the Times, picture and all.

In discussing the inauguration of the statue of Liberty in that city and its significance as touching our institutions, the New York World very aptly remarks that if Anarchy shall raise its head menacingly in this favored land, the old motto should be made to read: "Liberty, Equality and Law." If Socialism, as a device to level society down to the plane of the idle and the thriftless, should become troublesome, the motto should be: "Liberty, Equality and Property." For as liberty is the aim of a republic and equality its condition, so law is its protection and property its anchorage.

As has been pertinently remarked, the proposition of Gov. Hill that the Democrats ought not to be held accountable for their failure to redeem the promises upon which they carried the election of 1884, because a Republican senate has stood in their way, is the cheapest sort of sophistry. As a matter of fact, the senate has been ready and anxious at all times to cooperate with the house in effecting useful and desirable legislation; but in not a single instance has the house passed a bill looking to such a result. The miserable outcome of the last session of congress was due entirely to Democratic incapacity, and the responsibility can not be shifted or evaded by any such claim as that put forward by Gov. Hill.

It is not generally known but such is the case, that there is a distinctive political organization in California styled "The American Party," which run full state and congressional tickets this fall. The principles announced by this party are briefly as follows: (1) That all who are now citizens, whether native or foreign born are political equals and entitled to protection; (2) that the naturalization laws of the United States be repealed unconditionally; (3) that alien non-residents be prohibited from owning real estate in the United States; and (4) that no person not in sympathy with our government and its principles be permitted to immigrate to the United States. The scheme is to shut out from voting the foreigners who shall come to this country in the future and to shut out the anarchists and socialists altogether. The returns from the election in that state do not indicate that the new party was very popular.

The London Standard in its review of the eastern situation as to the probabilities of an armed conflict between the powers of the continent says that the capitals of Europe are still filled with rumors of impending warfare. It is no exaggeration, indeed, to say that throughout the continent the air smells of gunpowder. But though the outbreak of warfare is a probable contingency, it would be foolish to fill our minds with needless alarm. One important security, at all events, for the temporary maintenance of peace lies in the fact that we are on the verge of winter, instead of having it behind us. The howling winds and drifting rain that are just now scouring our English coasts represent, for large tracts of the European continent—the first fall of winter snow, soaked valleys, choked mountain passes, and roads difficult to traverse. Such conditions, however unfavorable to the traveler or the husbandman, are eminently unfavorable to the operations of war; and those who still believe in the immediate preservation of peace, build their hopes rather on the protection of the weather than on the wisdom of rulers or the sanity of nations. Were it otherwise, there can be no denying that all the materials for a general conflagration are ready to hand. It is in vain that the lovers of peace put a bridle on their utterances in order not to aggravate a situation whose dangers can be stated in the bald language and figures of dispassionate arithmetic. There is a sensible increase of the warlike temperature every day that passes; and if it were not, as we say, for the opportune chill of approaching winter, the war fever might speedily reach its height.

AND YET THERE IS ROOM.

One of the most interesting statements in Major Sim's report of Kansas agriculture for the months of August and September, is that concerning the amount of land, in the State remaining vacant and subject to entry under the various laws as follows: Rice county, 2,871 acres; Barton county, 3,975 acres; Pawnee county, 2,924 acres; Stafford county, 11,049 acres; Pratt county, 4,343 acres; Edwards, 7,380 acres; Norton, 160 acres; Graham county, 120 acres; Decatur county, 560 acres; Sheridan county, 2,040 acres; Thomas county, 480 acres; Sherman county, 800 acres; Cheyenne county, 108,210 acres; Rawlins county, 43,880 acres; Lincoln county, 1,100 acres; Ottawa county, 10; Ellsworth county, 320; Russell county, 4,000 acres; Davis county, 40 acres; Chase county, 80 acres; Ford county, 40,000 acres; Hodgeman county, 35,000 acres; Clark county, 60,000 acres; Meade county, 60,000 acres; Finney county, 100,000 acres; Hamilton county, 175,000 acres; Seward county, 125,000 acres; Sheridan county, 1,000 acres; Grove county, 5,000 acres; Thomas county, 5,000 acres; St. John county, 50,000 acres; Scott county, 5,000 acres; Sherman county, 4,000 acres; Wallace county, 75,000 acres; Wichita county, 10,000 acres; Greeley county, 75,000 acres; Reno county, 5,000 acres; Sedgewick county, 200 acres; Butler county, 2,000 acres; Cowley county, 4,000 acres; Sumner county, 200 acres; Harper county, 800 acres; Kingman county, 1,000 acres; Elk county, 1,000 acres; Chautauque county, 1,000 acres; Greenwood county, 1,500 acres.

KANSAS JOURNALISTS.

A MAGIC CITY BUILT BY A KANSAS EDITOR.

An Essay on Town Building—How Cities are Built—The Sifting Life of Colonel M. M. Murdock—The Soldier Editor Wants no Office—Nothing but "My Wichita"—Wonderful Growth of a Newspaper Property—Offices Held and Personal Incidents.

Written for the Kansas City Times.

The fortunes of individuals and the fate of cities are frequently mutually dependent and so linked and blended together that the iron hand of destiny seems to direct and control the welfare of each. For half a century Detroit was General Lewis Cass, and Cass was greater even than his town—he was Michigan itself. No man so moulded the fortunes of a territory and directed its development as did General Cass the northwest territory, an empire from whose vigorous loins have sprung a half dozen great and prosperous states. I knew an old man, not agreeing with Senator Douglas in politics, in fact being a radical abolitionist, who thought the little giant was possessed of satan politically, who went 150 miles to



Col. M. M. Murdock.

Chicago to hear the great Illinois senator speak. I asked him how he liked Mr. Douglas. "O," he replied, "he is a great speaker. He cracked up Chicago awfully. It is a smart town, but I had no idea it was such a place until I heard Mr. Douglas. He is all wrong in his politics, but he has a great opinion of Chicago." That was thirty-two years ago. For about half a century eliminate the name of Missouri's great senator and there would be some propriety in calling the state "Poor old Missouri." And Massachusetts! There she stands! And there she has stood since Webster died, and will stand until another like him appears. Men can be elected to occupy a seat on a pedestal, and Webster's name will probably be many years before it is filled. The Adamses and Websters gave fame to Massachusetts, and made her the leading factor for eighty years in national politics and policies. Come to think of it, there was old Rome, sun-crowned and jeweled upon her eternal hills. A thousand centuries may come and yet the faded story of Romulus and Remus will be told long after the coliseum is impassable dust.

HOW TO RUN A TOWN.

In successful town building utility of action, harmony in effort, concord in council are required as much as stupendous effort, sleepless energy and peerless endeavor. But something else also is necessary. There must be a directing mind and watchful vigilance on the part of some one or a very few individuals. Thirty years' experience and observation on the borders of civilization, and even a longer time, counting from a brief period when Michigan was still a territory, convince me that failures in success of town building result mainly from two causes.

First—Want of controlling mind and energy in a few individuals, more frequently in the lack of a single competent, broad gauged and broad brained leader who can impress his vigor and enthusiasm upon all forces and energies and unite and control them for the upbuilding of the town.

Second—Lack of harmony and unity in carrying out the plans and purposes of competent leadership. Petty jealousies, blear-eyed envy, small ambition, failure to strengthen and maintain competent leadership, have done more to kill good towns and blast and blight brightest hopes and prospects than all other agencies and influences combined. Wise counsels and harmonious action would undoubtedly have made Leavenworth the biggest town west of St. Louis. Her fate should be a lesson to all incipient cities and ambitious towns. Atchison, but a few miles distant, with no local demand for a town of any considerable importance, having the good sense to stand by her representative men in positions of power or having aspired prospects of success, whether it be Pomeroy or Ingalls, Glick or Horton, succeeded, with the fates all against her, in getting the main line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road in Kansas, the Central Branch road and other enterprises of incalculable value to the place. In the early days Lawrence stood by her lanes and Robinsons and Lane gave her the Union Pacific; Robinson secured for her the State university. So long as she was undivided in council and measurably free from petty jealousy and mean malice, envy she was the controlling factor in the politics and policies of the state. Then came a departure. Too many small great men arose who knew neither Lane nor Robinson and the inspirations and purposes that controlled "in the brave days of old." Haskell got a national reputation, in which his city and his state shared as well as himself, but in his political race he had to fight for recognition, for justice, rather, in his own party ranks and in his own town, and after he had given to Lawrence the government Indian school, and when his location was secured by him, conditional upon certain local financial aid, and Judge Thatcher stepped in and saved the institution to the town, the walls of the first building had not been commenced till he was belated and belimed by political malice in a contest in which he was not a party in interest.

That great empire springing up in southwestern Kansas has learned some practical lessons in town building from the successes and failures of older towns in the eastern portions of the state. When a graphic and truthful history of the state is written, and a model in effort, in purpose, in counsel, in united action in town building is selected, one name will appear upon the burnished horizon of the southwest, reflecting in its brilliancy of coloring and its glamour of glory and gold all others conspicuous and luminous.

THE MAGIC CITY OF WICHITA.

Wichita has exceeded all other cities in Kansas or the west. Kansas City alone excepted, and indeed far surpassing that imperial mistress of the new west, in the first fifteen years of its existence in growth

and development. It's a wonderful story this of the magic city of the plains. Be wildered and amazed by the gorgeous splendor of Solomon's imperial court, though not a stranger to oriental magnificence, coming from the grandeur of Persian royalty.

Where the gorgeous east with richest hand Showers on her kings barbaric pearl and gold—

the queen of Sheba declared not the half had been told her of the magnificence of the opulent Jewish monarch. The simple facts about Wichita read like a romance or a fairy tale. Springing like an exclamation from the plains with its broad and shaded avenues, its parks and gardens, its palaces embowered in trees, its stately and imposing business blocks, its public buildings and institutions, and all created, as it were, by a conjurer's mystic wand, in the short period of fifteen years, the magic city stands proud as she has right to be of her past, joyous, hopeful, imperial in her aspirations for the future. In 1850 a Dutch Indian trader, born at Frankfort-on-the-Main, came to this section. He remained with the Indians as their trader, counselor and friend while they remained. In 1870, but sixteen years ago, he had a vision of a great, important, post without people and without hopes of becoming a city except as they flitted as a dream or a vision through the hard-headed, matter-of-fact, and practical brain of the plegmatic Dutchman. But he was the conjurer aided by another wizard, who in so short a time, have built a city of boundless ambitions and most brilliant successes. In 1883 the census, carefully taken, gave Wichita a population of 8,005; in 1884 she had increased to 12,474; in 1885 to 16,019, and in 1886 the census, taken with the utmost care up to July 1, shows the actual population of Wichita to consist of nearly 21,000 souls. There has been a rapid and steady improvement during the first half of the present year \$1,285,000. This amount was expended in the erection and improvement of 446 residences and fifty-three business blocks. The Wichita Eagle of July 25 last says:

Thirteen three-story business houses are now in course of construction on Main street, between Second and Third streets, of which are modern in all respects, the fronts being costly and attractive, and some imposing. Within the limits of this single block more fine buildings are in course of construction and more money is being invested than on any other block of the business streets of any city west of St. Louis. But these are not all, even, on North street. North of Second street, on the east side of Central avenue, on the same street, there are three-story business houses going up, which in appearance, design and cost are above the average of the best business houses of Kansas and Missouri towns. Then again on South Main street, between Williams and English streets, two four-story, two three-story pressed brick and iron fronts are under contract to be built. Thus it will be seen that Wichita is building, on a single business street, twenty-four fine business houses, many of which would prove no discredit to the streets of any city in the country, and the aggregate cost of which twenty-four buildings will not be less than \$200,000 as shown by the estimates of a competent contractor, Douglas avenue, Wichita's principal business thoroughfare heretofore, but which in future must look to her laurels, while probably, in the number of buildings being erected, falls short of Main street, yet in the amount of money expended will be behind. There are on Douglas avenue, east of the river and west of the city mills, twelve business rooms under contract and in course of construction, including the Carey Palace hotel and the Bittling Bros' clothing and furnishing house, the value of all of which buildings when completed will add nearly one quarter of a million dollars to the grand total of capital being expended this summer in rendering Wichita the brightest and most attractive city in the west. The Carey Palace hotel, five stories high, including basement, and the Bittling Bros' Keystone clothing house, 30 feet front by 140 feet deep, four stories high, and surrounded by a double wall, will be unapproached by any buildings of their respective characters yet erected in any city in the State, and which in all particulars will be up to the measure of the coming greatness of the commercial center and metropolis of Kansas. But Wichita has other business streets along which other fine buildings are being erected. Chicago avenue, on the west side, is showing up some permanent brick business edifices which will some day be but an extension of West Douglas Avenue. Yet probably third in importance is Market street. Here on the corner of Market and English streets is going up a wholesale business house, which if completed will be equaled by few jobbing houses in the West. The wholesale house of Richards, Root & Co., the foundation of which is nearly in, is 100x140 feet, four stories high with basement, all of massive design, and every floor of great strength, which will cost a fortune. Just back north of the building is the site of the government building, work on which has been delayed, but which will soon go on now. Market street can safely be put down for \$150,000 more. The foregoing enumerated business houses and public buildings, either going up or contracted to go up before January 1, 1887, cover nearly thirty-nine acres, the aggregate cost of which will not be far from \$500,000.

The city has six first-class banking institutions, and churches and schools commensurate with the wonderful growth of the wonderful town. Except the founder of the city, the Hon. William Greifensee, who has served several terms as mayor and has been a member of the legislature, to no other one man does the city owe so much as to

COLONEL M. M. MURDOCK.

editor of the Wichita Eagle. He is the model town builder of the state. Wichita, in her growth, her enthusiasm, her energy and purpose and effort is the model after which all other towns should copy. No town ever stood by a man so loyally as has Wichita by Marsh Murdock. Wichita is his heaven and his home. He is intensely partisan, sectional, local as to Wichita. He has a right to be. No town ever so grandly and nobly stood by an editor. In a private note to the writer hereof Colonel Murdock says: "The only thing of which I am more proud than of any other is my success in bringing about the things, of holding together the necessary elements and influences and sending the faith which have developed the largest and by far the busiest and brightest city in the state of Kansas. For a dozen or more years I have thought of and worked for little else. The gratifying thing is that the people of the city give or accord me the fullest credit."

WHAT FAITH DOES.

Wichita is a child of faith. St. Paul says faith without works is dead. Wichita never failed in her faith, but she is sleepless and tireless in her works, and works, results, rarely come in this world without faith. It was Marsh Murdock's boundless enthusiasm with of course judgment and well directed effort and the splendid backing that the large hearted and big brained people of Wichita gave him that built the city. There are numerous fine towns springing up in western Kansas and all over this western country. Our western civilization is teeming and bursting

with life and energy. Soon it will overflow and pass the Indian Territory.

When at evening's mellow close Muster there the savage foes

cities will fill the land. Having seen so many failures and believing that Wichita possesses the Massett and the grand secret of successful town building I am desirous future failures shall not be so numerous and successes be more frequently scored.

Hence I have pressed this point of how to make a town as illustrated by Wichita's example. Colonel Murdock is entitled to all the credit he has received and will receive in connection therewith.

HIS EARLY LIFE.

Colonel M. M. Murdock was born October 10, 1837, near Morgantown, Va. His father moved to Ohio when Marshall M. was 8 years of age and was a contractor and engaged in the iron business and merchandising. Colonel Murdock was educated in the Tronton, O., high school. Here he learned his trade as a printer and prepared for a course of study in the state university at Delaware, O., but his father failing in business in 1850 left the young man without means to prosecute his studies. In the winter of 1856 he arrived at Topeka, since which time he has voted early and often. He was a corporal in a company of free state boys who marched to Lexington to participate in the inauguration of the first free state legislature. He was offered an assistant clerkship. In the winter of 1857 with other young men he made a tour of Southern Kansas, still inhabited by Indians and lands as yet claimed and nominally occupied by them. They laid out a town on the Verdigris river, but it was not a shining success. In 1860 he became a sovereign squatter and preempted a claim near the junction of the Cotton wood and Neosho rivers. This year his political life commenced. He was elected a delegate to the county convention of Breckinridge county (now Lyon), held at Americus, the then county seat. This year—the season of the great drought—in company with his brother, Hon. T. B. Murdock, he took a load of goods to the Pike's Peak gold region, where he remained till the breaking out of the war, and returned to enlist in the army, but finding that his father and brother had gone to the wars, he concluded to do the next best thing and got married. In April, 1861, he was married to Miss Victoria Mayberry, an accomplished young lady living near Lawrence. Like most of the leading public men of Kansas, he served a while in one of the printing offices at Lawrence. He was present at the Quantrill raid, and escaped as by a miracle. He and John Speer, jr., son of the proprietor of the Tribune, who was local editor of the paper, had attended a political meeting the night previous addressed by Senator Jim Lane, and retired late, but before retiring they observed and remarked the presence on the streets of two strange horsemen, the advance guard no doubt of Quantrell's gang. When a detachment of the marauders the next morning fired on Massachusetts street Murdock and young Speer were the first to make their appearance. Both were fired upon. Young Speer was killed. Murdock escaped into a cellar and witnessed the terrible massacre around him.

OFFICES HELD.

In the winter of 1863-4 Colonel Murdock was appointed a government special agent and enrolling officer for southwestern Kansas. He was secretary of the Republican state convention in 1864 and docket clerk of the senate the ensuing winter. In 1864 he was commissioned lieutenant colonel, and organized the Santa Fe battalion and was its commander, participating in the battles of Westport and Little Blue. He was secretary of the Republican convention in 1865, and in 1866 was elected clerk of Osage county for two years. In 1863 he established the Osage county Chronicle at Burlingame. In 1868 he was elected state senator for Osage and Coffey counties, and re-elected in 1870. In the spring of 1872 he started the Wichita Eagle. In the fall of that year he was elected state senator to represent twenty-six counties. In the southwest, a district that now has a population of half a million souls and over. He was the representative organ of three great valleys—the Arkansas, the Walnut and the Canadian. In 1874 he received in the state convention 65 votes for lieutenant governor, a position he did not seek. He was appointed postmaster of Wichita and held the office for twelve years and continued nearly two years under Mr. Cleveland, who could not persuade him to remain longer in the office. He was regent of the state normal school about fifteen years.

MURDOCK AS A MAN.

Murdock has red hair, or used to have. It was natural to the man. He is a genial, whole-souled fellow, extremely popular with the boys, a rattling, racy writer and possesses more brain than even Wichita gives him credit for. He is not a popular speaker. He is naturally a poet, full of idealism, but withal decidedly practical and business-like. His success with his Wichita Eagle is a mystery. It claims to be the largest printing establishment in the state, employs fifty to sixty people, runs five presses, two engines, two ruling machines, stereotype, etc.; daily circulation 4,000 to 5,000, weekly immense. It would take about \$100,000 to buy the establishment, including the building, and when offered the six figures Murdock would refuse to sell.

PERSONAL.

Colonel Murdock's two oldest children are grown; his two youngest, babies. In the frankness of private correspondence this worthy and successful Kansas editor suits to me. "I am a candidate for anything and don't want anything outside of my name and the Eagle, and there is no man in the United States with money enough to buy these—at least so long as Wichita stands by me, which I hope she will do until no town or city in the state or in the west can hold a candle to her."

At a convention of the Woman's Temperance Union in Minneapolis recently Dr. J. H. Kellogg told the members some striking truths. He claimed that women could get drunk on tea, and could make themselves by corsets and tight shoes. There is much in all this to cause women to reflect. Is it not their first duty to reform their own sex, before laboring with men? Tea, corsets, tight shoes and bustles are doing their deadly work and no one protests. Where is there a Woman's Union for the Reform of Women? Paradoxical as the words may sound, women should adopt loose clothing and strict habits.

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